

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses budget for 6-month FY gap

THE 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 7th regular session's 2nd day meeting was held yesterday in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall, at which Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Transport and Communications Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo explained the use of Ks22.72 billion in emergency funds included in the 2017 Union Budget Law.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo said repairing water damage to railway embankments was a necessary work for which the ministry was permitted to use Ks8.41 billion. From this amount, Ks8.22 billion was used on 12 embankment erosion preventive works and Ks177.73 million on repair works on two damaged embankments.

Because of these works, further inundation of railway lines were prevented, allowing safe and secure travel for the people as well as damage from flooding to people's houses, farms, religious buildings, schools, clinics and historical pagodas, the Deputy Minister said.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw's approval on the use of Ks22.72 billion in emergency fund included in the 2017 Union Budget Law.

Next, Union Ministers, Union-level members and Deputy Ministers from the President's Office, the Union Government Office, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Amyotha Hluttaw Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Union Auditor General's Office, the Union Supreme Court Office, the Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar, the Union Election Commission Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Union Attorney General's Office and the Union Civil Service Board explained to the Hluttaw about projects in the National Planning Bill and incomes and expenditures of the Union Budget Bill for the six-month period from 2018 April to September.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, on behalf of the Ministry of For-



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin. **PHOTO: MNA**

eign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation, said the main income of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are service fees that are considered ordinary income. Ks893.5 million in income is earmarked as ordinary income from bank interests, sales of tenders forms and old assets.

On expenditures for both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation, an ordinary expenditure of Ks34.78 billion was proposed and Ks34.76 billion was approved after assessment in stages by combined financial assessment groups and then submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Ordinary expenditures include expenses for meetings that Myanmar is hosting in the coming six months. The meetings are the Fourth Vice Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the East-West Economic Corridor, the Sixth Myanmar-China Yunnan Forum and the 16th Myanmar-Thailand Consultation on Technical Cooperation.

In capital expenditures, Ks12.79 billion was proposed and was assessed in stages by the three committees of the project planning department, the Ministry of Construction and the machinery management committee. Ks11.95 billion was permitted and submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Ks46.7 billion in ordinary and capital expenditures of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation was submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday for the 2018 April to September period to implement the 2018 aims of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and are for necessary works that will be implemented during the coming six months, explained the Union Minister.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe then explained that a capital expenditure of Ks146.86 billion is requested to implement the six main work programmes during the 2018 April to September period. The main construction expenditure of Ks44.3 billion includes repairing/maintaining buildings for the forces and departments of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Myanmar-Bangladesh border fence construction and related works of the Myanmar Police Force, buildings for four border police forces that will be formed, construction works in prisons of the Correctional Department and buildings for the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

Another expenditure of Ks2.49 billion is for 5 per cent commercial tax payment for capital expenditure works of the minister's office, forces and departments, payment of land rents

and land compensation fees for confiscated lands.

Regarding the income and expenditures of Ministry of Home Affairs included in the Union Budget Bill for the six-month period from 2018 April to September, a total income of Ks97.68 billion and an expenditure of Ks176.11 billion is requested.

For the six-month period from 2018 April to September, a total of Ks322.97 billion, a capital expenditure of Ks146.86 billion and an ordinary expenditure of Ks176.11 billion are being requested for approval, explained the Union Minister for Home Affairs.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint explained that the duties of the Ministry of Information are to inform, educate and entertain and to implement those duties through print media, television and broadcasting media, as well as new media such as the internet and other public relations methods.

Five policies were set to do this and they are to inform the works of the legislative, administrative and judicial sectors, inform matters relating to states and regions and other important matters, to show programmes that provide services, entertainment, news and educate the people, provide programmes that benefit the people that could not be provided by the private media, fulfil the requirements of the people, establish community centres and community libraries that will provide information to individuals and groups for personal and regional development and to provide library services in accordance with the requirements of people in rural and urban areas.

The financial commission had approved a Ks17.5 billion income to the Ministry of Information for the six-month period

from 2018 April to September. The Ministry of Information had proposed ordinary expenditures of Ks25.59 billion, capital expenditures of Ks1.63 billion, totalling Ks27.22 billion. After assessment by the financial commission, Ks2.43 billion was reduced and an ordinary expenditure of Ks23.49 billion, capital expenditure of Ks1.29 billion totalling Ks24.78 billion was set.

The Union Minister for Information submits to the Hluttaw for the confirmation of the Union Budget Bill for the six months period from 2018 April to September as the ministry has already assessed the bill in stages explained the Union Minister.

Next, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu said that according to policies, aims and processes, a total production value of the farm sector is targeted to be implemented to Ks2.94 trillion, an increase of 3.5 per cent and Ks2.41 trillion, an increase of 3.7 per cent in the livestock and fishery sector for the six-month period from 2018 April to September. Thirty-two projects and 295 works were planned to be implemented in the ministerial office, departments and universities and Ks149.88 billion was requested and Union Government Project Commission and Financial Commission permit it after assessment.

The ordinary expenditures of Ks184.65 billion are Ks149.34 billion requested from the government and foreign aid of Ks35.31 billion. Capital expenditures (including foreign aid and loans) for 2018 April to September is Ks149.88 billion. Construction expenditure is Ks89.28 billion, expenditure for machinery is Ks9.55 billion and other expenditures total Ks51.04 billion.

The capital expenditures of Ks149.88 billion includes Ks61.1 billion requested from the government, Ks2.94 billion in foreign aid and Ks85.83 billion in foreign loan.

The Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation explained that the ministry will utilise the allocated budget according to the set policies of the government for the full benefit to the agriculture sector and people in rural areas.

The 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 7th regular session 3rd day meeting will be continued on 17 January, it is learnt.—Myo Thu Hein, Mi Mi Phyto ■